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Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation	
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply	
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Coordination	Justify		

REMARKS

Would uplinking Tehran to Internet from TA be technically impossible? Obviously, we have much more political leverage to get it done there than in, say, Cyprus.

Ben:

Problems are mostly political. If you're asking about FBIS itself uplinking from TA, would require government approval and operation through the Intelsat signatory in Israel. If you're asking about the local signatory uplinking to our transponder on the 27.5W Intelsat, I too have asked whether our circuit is "open" to transmissions from non-Internet groundstations; but

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
Ben	Phone No.

OVS
A
MTA-7013
9 June 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- May 1987

I. GENERAL

1. Headquarters and BBC approved a bureau proposal to send videotapes of the Tehran Television 1630 newscast to Caversham by air express courier for transmission to Washington via Internet. The procedure, which started at the end of May, involves shipping tapes recorded by a local vendor via commercial courier directly to Caversham. The agreement with the air express courier specifies delivery within 48 hours. The bureau's extensive preparations appear to have paid off: No significant problems have surfaced so far; three of the first four shipments arrived at Caversham within 24 hours, the fourth arrived within the specified 48 hours--far better service than we expected. The service has already had an impact on Iranian coverage: The first tape, from the 29th, carried a 35-minute recording of a speech by Khomeyni on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr and resulted in a two-tape comparison fyi from London Bureau; the excellent reception enabled LD/BBC to fill the many indistinct passages in the version filed from Tehran Domestic Service.

2. Restrictions on travel in the West Bank and Gaza remained in force throughout the month due to heightened tension generated by sporadic terrorist acts and demonstrations.

3. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has taken occupancy of the remaining offices on the 15th floor of the Migdalor Building. This will now allow the bureau to move forward on security enhancements for access to the 15th floor from the elevators.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The bureau remained open 2 hours beyond normal COB to cover reports of "major riots" in Jerusalem on the 23d. It closed once it became clear that the unrest was under control. The bureau also remained open 2 hours beyond normal COB on the 28th to clear 13 takes of material from the Rotenstreich and Eban investigative committee reports on the Pollard spy affair.

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B. Lateral Services

1. The bureau is completing the final EOD processing for Austria Bureau's TCN Hungarian monitorial-candidate [] aiming for an ETA in Vienna of early August.

STAT
STAT

2. Tel Aviv Bureau administered BBC Monitoring Service Russian and Latvian (Lettish) tests to a candidate residing in the Tel Aviv area in response to a BBC request relayed by London Bureau.

C. Technical

1. The engineer and technicians conducted extensive tests of the bureau microwave QEI equipment to ensure that it will accomodate the planned upgrade to 300 baud. No problems have been discovered to date.

2. One of bureau's two Sony U-matic VCR's failed twice in quick succession and had to be sent out for repair, causing delay in the evaluation of the Cairo TV recordings made in connection with the April survey.

3. The Comscribe firmware modification and power supply replacement work has been completed. All Comscribes are now performing satisfactorily.

D. Cruising

The bureau provided the results of its 20-27 April survey of Cairo Television's first program after several delays caused by equipment failure and the shortage of Arabic capability at the bureau. The survey results support Nicosia bureau's earlier conclusions that Cairo TV currently does not offer significant potential in terms of programs suitable for regular coverage. Bureau conclusions were wirefiled and detailed program lists were pouched to headquarters and interested bureaus.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Hebrew Section Monitor's [] were promoted to FBN-10 and FBN-9, respectively, and Persian/Dari/Arabic Monitor [] was promoted to FBN-10. STAT
STAT
STAT
2. Senior editor [] and family arrived 2 June on PCS transfer from London following home leave. STAT
3. Staff cruiser [] departed 5 June on home leave enroute to PCS transfer to Islamabad. STAT
4. Teletypist [] EOD'd on 7 June. She replaces [] who resigned effective 6 June. STAT
STAT

IV. VISITS

1. Teletypist [] paid a 1-day working visit to Swaziland Bureau 11 May while on annual leave in South Africa. STAT
2. DC/Personnel and C/FNU [] visited bureau 28, 29 May, as part of a field orientation TDY and for discussions on FBN issues. STAT

[]

Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

cc: JN, NC

Attachments: a. Production Report
b. Communications Report